AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the aforementioned amendment. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. **(Currently amended)** A coupler comprising:

an optical fiber receiving structure; and

a fiber stop attached to said receiving structure; and

wherein said fiber stop has an index of refraction approximately the same as the index of refraction of a core of [[said]] an optical fiber received within said optical fiber receiving structure.

2. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 1, wherein said fiber stop is a window.

3. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 2, wherein the window comprises a glass material.

4. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 2, wherein the window comprises a plastic material.

5. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 1, wherein said fiber stop is a lens.

6. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens comprises a glass material.

7. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens comprises a plastic material.

8 **(Original)** The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens is an aspherical lens.

9. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens is a spherical lens.

10. **(Previously presented)** A means for coupling comprising:

means for receiving an optical fiber;

means for stopping a received optical fiber; and

wherein said means for stopping a received optical fiber implements an index of refraction approximately equal to an index of refraction of the received optical fiber.

11. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 10, wherein said means for stopping is a window.

12. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 11, wherein the window comprises a glass material.

13. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 11, wherein the window comprises a plastic material.

14. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 10, wherein said means for stopping is a lens.

15. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens comprises a glass material.

16. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens comprises a plastic material.

17. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens is an aspherical lens.

18. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens is a spherical lens.

19-29. **(Canceled)**

30. **(Original)** A coupler comprising:

a sleeve;

a window situated at a first end of said sleeve; and

a lens situated at a surface of said window opposite of a surface of said window proximate to said sleeve.

31. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 30, wherein:

said sleeve has a diameter so that an optical fiber can be inserted with an end stopped by the surface of said window proximate to said sleeve; and

said window has an index of refraction about the same as the index of refraction of optical fiber.

32. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 31, wherein said lens is a ball lens.

33. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 31, wherein said lens is formed on the surface of said window.

34. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 33, further comprising a light source proximate to said lens.